

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164573 TOSEC 060134

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS -2

TAGS: OVIP, PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH

STEVEN), (HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM - KIDNAPPED AMCIT IN ZAIRE:

SITREP NUMBER 25 (S/S 7514175)

1. ON JULY 11 AMBASSADOR CARTER RECEIVED LETTER FROM KENNETH STEVEN SMITH, THE REMAINING AMERICAN CAPTIVE STUDENT HELD BY PRP IN ZAIRE. LETTER STATES THAT SMITH BEING HELD PENDING RELEASE BY TANGOV OF TWO OR MORE PRP PRISONERS. ALTERNATIVELY, PRP WOULD RELEASE SMITH IF PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN BEGUN. SMITH STATES THAT HE REMAINS IN GOOD PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH.

2. AFTER CAREFUL DELIBERATION, AND WITH THE CONCURRENCE
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OF AMBASSADOR VANCE, DEPARTMENT HAS AUTHORIZED REPLY FROM

AMBASSADOR CARTER TO SMITH WHICH STATES THAT USG CANNOT REQUIRE TANGOV TO RELEASE PRP PRISONERS BUT THAT TANGOV HAS RECONFIRMED ITS EARLIER ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY ON PRISONER ISSUE ONCE STUDENTS WERE RELEASED UNHARMED. WITH RESPECT TO PUBLICITY, REPLY WILL RECONFIRM THE POSITION EARLIER PASSED TO THE PRP THAT THE PARENTS AND STUDENTS WILL GIVE NO PUBLICITY TO THE PRP

UNTIL SMITH RELEASED.

3. EMBASSY DAR ADVISED THAT CARRIE JANE HUNTER AND EMILIE BERGMANN (TWO STUDENTS RELEASED JUNE 28) PLANNED TO RELEASE A STATEMENT JULY 12 EXPRESSING THEIR HOPE FOR SMITH'S SAFE RELEASE AND THEIR INTENTION TO PUBLICIZE, AFTER HE HAD BEEN RELEASED, WHAT THEY HAD LEARNED ABOUT PRP DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED EMBASSY TO POINT OUT RISK INVOLVED OF PROVOKING GOZ IF SUCH STATEMENT RELEASED AND TO TRY TO DISCOURAGE ANY STATEMENT AT THIS TIME. IF STUDENTS INSIST ON RELEASING STATEMENT, DEPARTMENT ASKED EMBASSY TO URGE THEM TO USE LANGUAGE, APPROVED BY AMBASSADOR VANCE, WHICH IS LESS LIKELY TO ANTAGONIZE GOZ THAN LANGUAGE THEY PROPOSED. INGERSOLL

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TAGS: OVIP, PINS, CASC, (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEVEN), (HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)
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